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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 128738

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN DEFENSE REVIEW

REF: USNATO 3025

- 1. AS POINT OF CLARIFICATION TO INFO PROVIDED REFTEL BY CANADIAN DELEGATION RE CANADIAN DEFENSE REVIEW, OUR UNDERSTANDING BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH CANADIANS HERE AND IN OTTAWA, AS WELL AS IN PJBD, IS THAT CURRENT CANADIAN DEFENSE REVIEW HAS THREE PHASES, AS FOLLOWS:
- (1) PHASE I TO IDENTIFY AND CONFIRM THE TASKS WHICH CANADIAN ARMED FORCES SHOULD PERFORM TO FULFILL THE FOUR ROLES OUTLINED IN 1971 DEFENCE WHITE PAPER I.E., NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, NORTH AMERICAN DEFENSE, NATO, AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE-KEEPING.
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- (2) PHASE II TO DECIDE THE LEVEL AT WHICH THESE TASKS SHOULD BE PERFORMED AND THE RESOURCES REQUIRED TO DO THEM.
- (3) PHASE III TO RECOMMEND THE TOTAL FORCE STRUCTURE AS WELL AS THE BUDGETARY LEVELS NEEDED TO FULFILL THESE TASKS AT AGREED LEVELS.
- 2. WE ARE TOLD THAT PHASE II IS NOW BEING COMPLETED AND THAT PHASE III MAY BE READY BY END OF JUNE.
- 3. CANADIAN EMBASSY OFFICER COMMENTED TO US RECENTLY THAT EMBASSY OTTAWA'S RECENT DEMARCHE AS WELL AS DISCUSSION IN DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING HAVE DEEPLY IMPRESSED RICHARDSON AND OTHER CANADIAN OFFICIALS WITH SERIOUSNESS OF REQUEST FOR TIMELY CONSULTATIONS. HE THOUGHT THAT REFERENCES TO RECENT UK EXAMPLE OF CONSULTATIONS WERE PARTICULARLY RELEVANT. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, IT WOULD BE "UNPRECEDENTED" FOR CANADA, WITH SIMILAR CABINET PROCEDURES, TO FOLLOW UK EXAMPLE AND ALLOW ALLIES UP TO TWO MONTHS TO COMMENT ON PROVISIONAL FINDINGS OF DEFENSE REVIEW BEFORE CABINET TAKES FINAL DECISIONS. MAW

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